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IC 75-4531  
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31 DEC 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence  
Officers

SUBJECT: "Procedures for Strategic Warning Notices"

1. The attached draft was prepared by the Strategic Warning Staff and coordinated with us. Since this is a matter of direct interest to several NIOs, we would welcome your comments before we submit the paper to the Strategic Warning Review Group for review and before we ask for USIB concurrence.

2. Please forward comments or suggested revisions to  
[redacted] by COB, 9 January 1976.

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[redacted]  
[redacted]  
Chief, Product Review Division  
Intelligence Community Staff

Attachment - As Stated

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Distribution:

Orig - D/DCI/NIO [redacted] (w/att.)

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DCI/IC/PRD [redacted] /31 Dec 75

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PROCEDURES FOR STRATEGIC WARNING NOTICES

1. The Strategic Warning Notice (SWN) is a special report prepared by the Special Assistant for Strategic Warning (SA) and issued by the DCI when, in his judgment, there appears to be evidence that the Soviet Union, the Warsaw Pact, the Peoples Republic of China or North Korea is considering military action by its armed forces beyond its borders or is employing its military capabilities beyond its borders in ways that might threaten military confrontation with the US.

2. The DCI will notify the President and the National Security Council of the warning notice and take such other action as he deems necessary. The DCI will also transmit the Strategic Warning Notices to the USIB Principals for further dissemination within their departments and agencies. When time is of the essence, the SA may issue such notices directly to the President and NSC with concurrent dissemination to the DCI and USIB Principals.

3. An SWN will normally be initiated by the SA or, in his absence, the Director of the Strategic Warning Staff (SWS). It may also be proposed to the SA by a USIB Principal, a National Intelligence Officer, or by any other senior officer of the intelligence or foreign affairs communities. A proposal for an SWN will be addressed to the SA but the decision to issue an SWN will rest with the DCI.

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4. Responsibility for preparing an SWN will rest with the SWS, and it may call on any element of the Intelligence Community for support. Whenever possible the SWS will coordinate a draft of the SWN with the USIB agencies and the appropriate National Intelligence Officer (NIO). Any dissenting views will be described in the SWN. The SA is authorized to limit or forego coordination when time is of the essence. All SWNs will note the extent of coordination within the Community.

5. At the earliest possible time, the SWS should notify appropriate USIB agencies of the decision to draft a Strategic Warning Notice. When time permits, the SWS should also indicate the source of information that led to the decision, the extent of coordination being sought, the amount of assistance desired, and the likely time of issuance. When feasible, appropriate US embassies and field commands should also be notified that an SWN is being prepared and their views should be solicited. An SWN will in most circumstances be a paper which provides the basic rationale for the issuance of a warning. Occasionally, however, an SWN may consist simply of a covering memorandum attached to an existing intelligence document, suggesting in essence that the policy maker should focus on the situation reported in the basic document.

6. An SWN will also clearly indicate what special actions are being taken to ensure effective coverage of the situation, e.g., the initiation of special collection efforts.

7. A supplementary SWN should be issued whenever, in the view of the SA, the situation has greatly intensified or changed in some especially significant way. An appropriate advisory should be issued

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by the DCI whenever, in his judgment, events indicate that the crisis at hand has abated or terminated. Collection efforts arising from the issuance of the SWN should also be modified or canceled as appropriate.

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